

CITY OF ESCONDIDO

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMISSION

November 13, 2013

The special meeting of the Community Services Commission was called to order at 6:35 p.m., Wednesday, by Chairman Bologna in the City Council Chambers, 201 North Broadway, Escondido, California.

Members present: Chairman Bologna, Commissioner Burrows, Commissioner DuDeck, Commissioner Farwell, Commissioner Fralish, Commissioner Pitcher, Commissioner Russell, and Commissioner Simonson.

Commissioners absent: None.

Staff present: Amy Shipley, Assistant Director of Recreation and Community Services; Karen Williams, Older Adult Services Manager; Loretta McKinney, Director of the Library and Community Services; Nichole White, Recreation Supervisor III; Joel Agg, Supervisor of the On Track After School Program; and Ty Paulson, Minutes Clerk.

MINUTES:

Moved by Commissioner Russell, seconded by Commissioner Simonson, to approve the minutes of the July 25, 2013, meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

CORRESPONDENCE & INFORMATION: None.

Taken out of order.

2. BMX Proposal – Discussion/Possible Action

Ms. McKinney referenced the staff report and noted staff had received an unsolicited proposal to place a BMX track in Kit Carson Park. Staff recommended the Commission discuss and provide direction regarding the placing of a BMX track in Kit Carson Park, placing a BMX track at another location, or not allowing a BMX track in the City.

Chairman Bologna asked if a formal presentation would be made by the entity requesting this item. Ms. McKinney noted she was unaware of any formal presentation being made unless someone had provided this in the public comment portion of this item. (No formal presentation was received)

Ruth Weber, Escondido, was opposed to the allowing the BMX facility to be constructed in Kit Carson Park due the park being public lands, costs to the City, and the amount of land needed. She was concerned with the facility adding to the already congested area and traffic associated with the Westfield Mall and surrounding schools. She stated that the proposed location was the last portion of green space in its area. She felt only Escondido citizens should be able to make decisions on this item. She then submitted some maps of the area, which included a petition with 136 signatures in opposition.

Cynthia Morris, Escondido, was not opposed to allowing a BMX track in the City but was opposed to allowing it in Kit Carson Park due to feeling it would add to an already congested park. She was also concerned that the proposed use would generate dust in the park.

Roy Garrett, Escondido, was opposed to using public parkland for a for-profit BMX facility.

Wendy Enright, San Diego, was in favor of a BMX facility in Escondido. She noted that she lived near the San Diego BMX course, which was well maintained by the McCurdy family and did not generate any dust. She expressed her enthusiasm with the sport and noted that it was an Olympic recreational sport that was good for kids, adults, and the community.

Dorie Savage, San Diego, was in favor of a BMX facility in Escondido. She stated that a for-profit entity would be able to maintain the facility and would provide revenue to the City. She indicated that the dirt used for tracks was very compact and would not generate dust. She also indicated that the sport was very affordable.

Ben Fode, Escondido, was in favor of a BMX facility in Escondido. He expressed his enthusiasm with the sport and noted that it was an Olympic recreational sport that was good for kids, adults and the community.

Eleni Tignor, Escondido, was opposed to using public lands for a for-profit facility. She noted that she was opposed to the proposed location, feeling another location would be more appropriate.

Nigel Johnson, Escondido, was in favor of a BMX facility in Escondido. He stated that a BMX facility was a great recreational activity for kids. He expressed his concern with other BMX facilities being too far away from the City.

Richard Puder, Escondido, was in favor of a BMX facility in Escondido. He stated that a BMX facility was a great recreational activity for kids. He expressed his concern with other BMX facilities being too far away from the City.

Mark Castro, Escondido, was in favor of the BMX track in Escondido. He stated

that BMX riding was a family-oriented recreational activity.

Daniel Dolge, Escondido, was in favor of the BMX track in Escondido. He expressed his concern with the other BMX facilities being too far away from Escondido.

Terry McDonall, San Diego, was in favor of the BMX track in Escondido.

Sara Hosley, Escondido was in favor of the BMX track in Kit Carson Park. She expressed her concern with the other BMX facilities being too far away from Escondido. She felt Kit Carson Park was ideal for a BMX track, noting the park was already a sport's park.

Beau Furr, Escondido, was in favor of the BMX track in Kit Carson Park. He noted that BMX was an individual Olympic sport that was very family oriented. He expressed his concern with the other BMX facilities being too far away from Escondido. He also felt participants would volunteer their time to help maintain the park as they did at other facilities.

Mark Verrochi, Escondido, Membership Director for San Diego ACEs, was in favor of a BMX track in Escondido but asked that it not be put in Kit Carson Park, noting his concern with the park already being congested.

Adam and Michael Durbin, Poway, were in favor of a USA BMX track in Kit Carson Park. He stated that he and his son had traveled the world through USA BMX, noting it was a family-oriented sport. He noted that the National Anthem is played at the beginning of each meet, noting it was very patriotic.

Lori Gannod, San Diego, stated she was in favor of a BMX track in Kit Carson Park. She stated that BMX was affordable and kept kids off the street. She also noted that BMX was very family oriented.

Adam Watkins, Escondido, Ride MBX, was in favor of a BMX track in Kit Carson Park, feeling the skate park and BMX track would compliment each other.

Vincent McCurdy, San Diego, stated that he was the sponsor for the subject program. He noted that he operated two BMX tracks in San Diego for over 25 years. He indicated that the facility would have no impacts on parking given the hours of operation as well as not generate dust. He asked that he be allowed to talk further with the City regarding the logistics of the BMX facility.

Jeff Allan, La Mesa, was in favor of a BMX track in Kit Carson Park. He stated that Mr. McCurdy's track was well operated and maintained. He indicated that a BMX track would generate revenue for the City and be a great recreational activity for the kids.

Carman Nava, Escondido was not opposed to allowing a BMX track in the City

but was opposed to allowing it in Kit Carson Park due to feeling it would add to an already congested park. She felt the park needed to be preserved.

Scott McQuigan, Escondido, was in favor of the BMX track in Escondido. He noted that as a Marine he appreciated recreational activities that various cities provided for relocated families. He also stated that the proposed BMX track would create revenue for the City.

Scott Envall, Escondido, was in favor of the BMX track in Escondido. He expressed his concern with the other BMX facilities being too far away from Escondido.

Malcolm Trevitt, Escondido, was in favor of a BMX track in Escondido. He expressed his concern with the other BMX facilities being too far away from Escondido. He also noted that BMX racing had very little risk.

Joseph Rivas, Escondido, was not opposed to allowing a BMX track in the City but was opposed to allowing it in Kit Carson Park due to feeling it would add to an already congested park, be an inappropriate use for public parklands, and set a precedent.

Ed Stovin, San Diego, was in favor of a BMX track in Escondido. He stated that BMX racing was family oriented, created great opportunities for kids, and was a safe sport. He also stated that Mr. McCurdy's facilities were well maintained.

Mark Skok, Escondido, was opposed to using public lands for a for-profit entity. He suggested that the City work with the BMX representatives to find an appropriate location in the City.

Lorena Bunch, Escondido was in favor of a BMX track in Escondido.

Dolly Goulart, Oceanside, was in favor of a BMX track in Escondido. She stated that BMX racing was family oriented, created great opportunities for kids, and generated revenue for the City. She expressed her concern with the other BMX facilities being too far away from Escondido.

Tad Lent, Rancho Bernardo, was in favor of a BMX track in Kit Carson Park. He stated that BMX racing created lasting friendships.

Marc Day, Escondido, was in favor of a BMX track in Kit Carson Park. He stated that a BMX track would be a good fit with Kit Carson Park given it already offered 14 other sports.

Randy Cole, Santee, Solid Foundation Sponsorship, provided some background history for Solid Foundation Sponsorship and noted they would donate equipment and sponsorships to the BMX facility as part of their charter.

Jeffrey Ebright, San Diego, President of Palomar Audubon Society, expressed concern with potential impacts the facility would have on the birds in the park. He asked that the City consider other locations in the City.

Tom Cowan, Escondido, was opposed to using public lands for a private for-profit venture.

Pat Mues, Escondido, 2014.com, was opposed to using public lands for a private for-profit venture. She felt the relevant and important testimony at this hearing was from the residents of Escondido who would be impacted.

James Preston, Escondido, stated that the City had no experience in operating a BMX track, noting that the facility would be a revenue generator for the City. He stated that property could be leased by the City and could benefit the City and its citizens.

Ed Hall, Escondido, stated that the challenge for the Commission would be to find an appropriate location for the BMX track.

Grant Taylor, Escondido, President of Friends of Kit Carson Park, noted that they were not opposed to allowing a BMX track in the City but were opposed to allowing it in Kit Carson Park. He stated that they were opposed to the commercialization of activities in Kit Carson Park. He indicated that the proposed business plan estimated over 43,000 visitors, noting his concern with the already congested park. He also expressed concern with setting a precedent by leasing public parklands to a private venture.

John Weber, Escondido, was not opposed to allowing a BMX track in the City but was opposed to allowing it in Kit Carson Park. He was concerned with commercializing a public park.

Patricia Borchmann, Escondido, was not opposed to allowing a BMX track in the City but was opposed to allowing it in Kit Carson Park due to feeling it would be an inappropriate use for public parklands.

Kathleen Babcock, Escondido, noted that she anticipated hearing a presentation regarding alternative locations, length of the lease, tax benefits, and environmental impacts to the Kit Carson Park. She stated that she was not opposed to allowing a BMX track in the City but was opposed to allowing it in Kit Carson Park.

Cassie Lieurance, Escondido, felt more information was needed before a location was selected. She stated that she was not opposed to allowing a BMX track in the City but was opposed to allowing it in Kit Carson Park. She also expressed concern with the City providing any revenue for a BMX facility.

Robin Ford, Escondido, stated that residents already had to pay for activities in the parks. She felt Kit Carson Park would be a safe location for a BMX track and would compliment the other recreational activities in the park as well as the amount of bicycle activities in the City.

Aaron Johnson, Escondido, stated that the residents already pay to use the parks, noting he paid for his kids to play baseball and soccer in Kit Carson Park. He felt that a BMX facility in Kit Carson Park would create a great opportunity for the City.

Chairman Bologna requested input regarding staff's recommendation.

Ms. McKinney reiterated that staff recommended the Commission discuss and provide direction regarding placing a BMX track in Kit Carson Park, placing a BMX track at another location, or not allowing a BMX track in the City.

Commissioner Pitcher asked if other locations were considered. Ms. McKinney noted that the staff report identified Jesmond Dene or Mountain View as possible locations, noting that taking parkland required mitigation measures and other issues.

Commissioner Russell felt more information was needed before any action was taken. She suggested tabling the item to allow for more information and a formal presentation.

Commissioner Simonson motioned to recommend that City Council continue to look into a BMX track as planned. Motion did not carry due to lack of a second.

ACTION:

Moved by Commissioner Russell, seconded by Commissioner Farwell, to table Item 2 for further investigation. Motion carried. Ayes: Russell, Farwell, Burrows, Bologna, Pitcher, and Fralish. Noes: Simonson and DuDeck. (5-2)

Discussion ensued regarding potential special meeting dates for the purpose of re-hearing Item 2.

Chairman Bologna recessed the meeting at 8:07 p.m. and reconvened the meeting at 8:15 p.m.

Commissioner DuDeck left the meeting at this time.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS:

Wally Gutierrez, Escondido, requested that the Commission take measures to

reopen Ryan Park's bathroom. He noted that people were urinating outside due to the bathroom being closed. He also stated that Chairman Bologna had visited the bathroom today and found that it was not open.

PRESENTATIONS

2. Summer Program Recap

Mr. Agg provided an overview of the summer programs and requested input.

3. James Stone Pool Audit – Discussion/Possible Action

Ms. Shipley and Ms. White referenced the James Stone Pool audit. Ms. White noted that the audit was broke down into two categories, one being urgent items and one being items needing repair in the near future with the total being close to \$936,00. The issue was that the pool was over 30 years old and could not be used for sanctioned meets and would never be able to recover costs. Ms. Shipley noted that \$121,000 was available to spend on repairs which would include the kiddie pool and a portion of the large pool. She stated that staff was looking at grants and potential partners. She then requested input from the Commission.

Chairman Bologna asked what the cost would be for a new pool. Ms. Shipley noted that a new pool would cost approximately \$15 million.

Discussion ensued regarding a clarification of priority list for the pool as well as potential hazards that needed to be mitigated. Additional discussions ensued regarding a clarification of the ADA requirements and upgrades.

ACTION:

Moved by Commissioner Russell, seconded by Commissioner Farwell, to direct staff to obtain bids on plastering both pools and to conduct leak tests. Motion carried unanimously.

4. Renaming of San Lake Proposal - Discussion

Ms. McKinney referenced the staff report and noted staff recommended the Commission discuss the proposal of renaming "Sand Lake" to "Eagle Scout Lake" and make a recommendation to the Mayor and City Council for consideration.

Commissioner Russell felt it would be appropriate to rename the lake "Scout Lake" so as to include all of the scouts.

Commissioner Simonson and Commissioner Pitcher abstained due to indicating that they did not receive the staff report.

ACTION:

Moved by Commissioner Farwell, seconded by Commissioner Burrows, to direct staff to forward a recommendation to rename “Sand Lake” to “Scout Lake”. Motion carried. Ayes: Burrows, Farwell, Fralish, Bologna, and Russell. Noes: Simonson and Pitcher. (5-0-2) Commissioner DuDeck was absent from the vote.

CURRENT BUSINESS:

1. Park Improvement Projects Update – Discussion

Ms. Shipley and Ms. McKinney provided the updates and requested input.

CONTINUATION OF NEW BUSINESS:

5. Kit Carson Park Adult Softball Complex Concession – Discussion

Ms. Shipley provided the update and requested input.

6. Recreation Update – Received.

Ms. Shipley provided the update and requested input.

7. Older Adult Services Update – Received.

Ms. Williams provided the update and requested input.

Commissioner Russell noted that the wellness expo was well received.

UPDATE ON CITY COUNCIL ACTION: None.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS: None.

ITEMS FROM DEPARTMENTS:

4. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Site Committee – DuDeck, Pitcher, and Fralish. Alternate – Farwell.
Revenue & Operations Review – Bologna, and Nelson. Alternate – Burrows.
Community Activities – Garcia, Russell, and Farwell. Alternate – Pitcher.
Facility Use – Bologna, and Fralish,

No discussion.

ITEMS FROM COMMISSIONERS:

Discussion ensued regarding the protocol for hearing presentations.

Commissioner Russell stated that she felt she was not prepared to discuss the BMX track issue, noting she did not receive a portion of the packet. Commissioner Simonson concurred.

Commissioner Farwell asked if Mr. McCurdy could have come forward with a presentation. Ms. McKinney noted that the subject proposal was provided on the City's website and emailed to the Commission.

Ms. Shipley stated that the proposal was provided to the Commission in October in order to allow the Commission time to read them in advance of the Commission meeting. Some Commissioners indicated they did not receive the full staff report.

Ms. McKinney noted staff had made extra effort to make sure the community had access to the reports.

Commissioner Fralish left the meeting at this time 9:33 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 9:38 p.m. The next meeting was scheduled for January 23, 2014 at 6:30 p.m.

Loretta McKinney, Director of
Library and Community Services

Ty Paulson, Minutes Clerk